

Revisions of the Notification of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) under the Act on the Rational Use of Energy

Energy Efficiency Division
Agency of Natural Resources and Energy
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

1. Background

Under the Act on the Rational Use of Energy (Law No. 49 of 1979; hereinafter referred to as the “Energy Efficiency Law”), the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry shall establish and publicize standards for manufacturers/importers (hereinafter referred to as the “manufacturers, etc.”), with regard to the improvement of the energy efficiency performance for the respective equipment which is specified in the Cabinet Order under the Energy Efficiency Law including electric water heaters.

The Minister also shall specify the matters to be labeled by manufacturers, etc. with regard to energy efficiency of specified equipment including electric water heaters.

In addition, the energy efficiency standards shall be established taking into consideration the highest level of energy consumption performance of the respective specified equipment and other related factors (called the "Top Runner Program").

The Minister proposes new energy efficiency standards for electric water heaters to promote rationalization of energy use pertaining to electric water heaters in Japan in order to cope with the recent increase of energy consumption in the household sector, climate change, and so forth.

2. Outline of amendment

(A) Scope

Electric water heaters

(B) Energy consumption efficiency and measurement method

The energy consumption efficiency of appliances is to be evaluated in the measurement method that is set forth in the “Electric water heaters in the household sector” (JIS C 9220:2018).

(C) Target fiscal year

The target fiscal year is FY2025.

(D) Category and targeted standard value

The categories and targeted standard value are as follows.

Table. Targeted standard value for electric water heaters

Category Name	Presumed Household	Number of storage tanks	Storage capacity	Specifications	Targeted standard value	
A	Small family	—	—	Other than cold region specifications	3.0	
B				Cold region specifications	2.7	
C	Standard	One	Less than 320 liters	Other than cold region specifications	3.1	
D				Cold region specifications	2.7	
E			320 liters or more	Other than cold region specifications	3.5	
F			Less than 550 liters	Cold region specifications	2.9	
G			550 liters or more	Other than cold region specifications	3.2	
H				Cold region specifications	2.7	
I			Multiple	—	Other than cold region specifications	3.0
J					Cold region specifications	2.7

(E) Method to determine achievement

The manufacturers of appliances are required to keep the harmonic means of the energy consumption efficiency of appliances shipped in each fiscal year after the target fiscal year, which is weighted with the number of units shipped for each category, at the same level or higher than the targeted standard value.

(F) Labeling requirement

These revisions include requirements that manufacturers, etc. should indicate on their catalogs with regard to energy consumption efficiency etc.

3. Proposed date of entry into force

Around May of 2021*

*Target fiscal year for achieving the new standard is set to be FY2025.